



News Release

Maryland National Guard



Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Major General Bruce F. Tuxill
The Adjutant General

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Maj. Charles Kohler, Public Affairs Officer
Phone: 443-250-7242
e-mail: charles.kohler@md.ngb.army.mil

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AMERICA'S CAR ON DISPLAY

BALTIMORE, Sept. 2, 2004 – The Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Wing today announced that "*America's Car*," the number 29 car which racer Kerry Earnhardt will drive at Dover International Speedway on Sept. 25 will be on display for public viewing on Sept. 18 at Chesapeake Mini-Storage, 3000 Eastern Blvd., in Baltimore, between 10:30 am and 3:30 pm. *America's Car* is proudly sponsored by the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

The vehicle is an authentic NASCAR car, configured for racing, complete with driver safety equipment and a 700-horsepower engine. It also represents ESGR's effort to encourage Americans everywhere to recognize and thank the many employers throughout the country and Maryland for supporting their employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.

Each day the total number of Guardsmen and Reservists who have been mobilized for active duty service since Sept. 11, 2001 will be displayed on the hood of *America's Car*.

In addition, a large banner will be available for members of the community to sign as a show of support for deployed troops. Currently, more than 60,000 people nationwide have signed the banner and others like it. ESGR's goal is to gather 1.2 million signatures, one for every member of the Guard and Reserve, from across America.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for people of all ages to come out and see up close and personal what a NASCAR race car actually looks like," said Col Guy Walsh, commander of the Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Wing. "More importantly though, it's a chance for people in our community to show their appreciation for the men

and women who day in and day out put their lives on the line in support of freedom and the global war on terrorism.”

Once complete, the banners will be displayed in prominent places, such as troop recreation centers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the United States. For more information, the public is encouraged to call the 175th Wing Public Affairs office at 410-918-6290.

The mission of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is to gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve as defined by demonstrated employer commitment to employee military service.

The Maryland Air National Guard is comprised of a State Headquarters in Baltimore, the 175th Wing at Martin State airport and its two flying units and support staff - the 104th Fighter Squadron and its A-10 jet fighters, and the 135th Airlift Squadron and its C-130J cargo aircraft. More than 1,600 full-time and traditional members are employed by the Maryland Air National Guard, contributing nearly 80 million dollars annually to Maryland’s economy.

The Air National Guard represents more than one-third of the total United States Air Force’s total structure. Under the Total Force Policy, the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve and the active United States Air Force are full partners in protecting the United States and its interests at home and abroad.

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